



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY313651
Inspection date	16 March 2006
Inspector	Jacqueline Oldman

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband, adult daughter and 2 children aged 11 and 13 years. They live in a house in a residential area of Pitsea, Basildon within walking distance of schools, pre-schools, a park and local shops. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently caring for 1 child, who attends on a full time basis.

The family has no pets.

The childminder collects children from a local school. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to understand simple good health and hygiene practices as they learn the importance of washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Steps are taken to ensure that children are protected from infection as the childminder has a verbal sickness policy and children do not attend if they are unwell. The management of medicines is organised to enable the childminder to act in children's best interests if they are unwell. The childminder can deal competently with minor emergencies or accidents as she holds a current first aid certificate. However, children are not yet fully protected as parents do not sign the records of medicines administered or accidents occurring to demonstrate acknowledgement of the entry.

Children benefit from a healthy diet provided by the childminder. They are encouraged to make healthy choices such as eating fruit daily. The childminder is well aware of any allergies or special dietary requirements to ensure that individual needs are met.

Children are given satisfactory opportunities for exercise and fresh air, which contributes to their good health. Although the garden is not currently being used by minded children, they enjoy going for walks in the fresh air and make use of the nearby park for energetic play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and investigate in a generally safe environment. Since the last inspection work has commenced on replacing the kitchen. The home has been organised and precautions taken to prevent accidents. The garden is not currently being used and the main play space is gated; this minimises potential hazards.

Children learn to keep themselves safe because the childminder makes effective use of socket and radiator covers to help them learn about potential hazards. Road safety is practised when out walking, however children are not fully protected as written parental consent has not been requested to take children on outings or transport them in a vehicle.

Children enjoy using a range of toys and play equipment, which meet safety standards and are appropriate for their stages of development. The playroom is equipped with accessible storage so that children can safely make choices about their play. Toys are checked regularly for cleanliness and damage to minimise

hazards and help prevent accidents.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has an understanding of her child protection responsibilities. She knows who to contact if she is concerned about a child's well-being and she has a copy of the current recommended literature 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' for reference. The childminder is vigilant about security and clear collection procedures help to keep children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settling well at the childminder's home and enjoy being close to the childminder. Children are secure in their relationship with the childminder, who is attentive in her responses to them. The childminder puts thought into providing activities that are age-appropriate and will offer challenge or extend children's knowledge and skills. The childminder has obtained a copy of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and is beginning to familiarise herself with it. However, young children are not fully challenged, or developmental experiences fully extended, as the childminder has not yet implemented ideas from the framework to ensure children are provided with a wide range of opportunities and materials to build on their natural curiosity; this supports their all round development.

She organises a varied range of activities, both indoors and on outings, to provide children with opportunities to try out and practise new skills. They are growing in confidence because the childminder gives them time and encouragement to solve problems and explore possibilities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are made to feel welcome and part of the family. Information about each child is gathered to enable the childminder to meet their individual needs and ensure that they settle quickly. Children learn to behave well and play harmoniously as they are encouraged to observe social skills such as sharing and turn taking. Plenty of praise and encouragement is given to raise children's confidence and self-esteem. The childminder is aware of the importance of providing additional play opportunities to encourage and support children's awareness of the wider world. Children have regular opportunities to observe positive images of diversity and learn about the similarities and differences of others.

Children's welfare is supported through the friendly and helpful relationships established with parents and carers. Information about the childminder's service is shared with new parents. There are written contracts and parents are kept informed of their child's daily care routines through the daily verbal exchange of information and some record keeping.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are secure and confident as the home and routines are organised to meet their needs. The day is organised to give children the opportunity to experience a range of age-appropriate activities, both inside and outside the home.

The childminder uses information gathered from training such as attending the Introduction to Childminding Practice and the first aid course to support her practice. Play space and resources are arranged to meet the children's needs and maintain adequate safety levels. The living room provides an area where children can play or relax comfortably.

Documentation and most records are maintained to support the welfare, care and development of the children. Parents are verbally informed of the day-to-day care of children, contributing to continuity in their care routines.

Overall the range of children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- obtain written parental consent to transport children in a vehicle and to take them on outings
- assess the risks to children in relation to the cleaning products in the kitchen and the building materials in the garden and take action to minimise these
- obtain parental signatures to acknowledge the written record of; medicines given to children; and accidents
- improve the outcomes for children under three by using an approach in line with 'Birth to three matters'

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk